[redacted]

YUGOSLAVIA: Political Changes in Kosovo Province

A major shakeup in the top party body in Kosovo Province is likely today, after considerable foot-dragging by Kosovo's leaders and pressure from the national leadership. Following the violent demonstrations in April by ethnic Albanians--who compose most of the population in Kosovo--Belgrade criticized the provincial leaders for allowing Albanian nationalism to go unchecked and called for a widespread purge. The delaying tactics of the provincial leaders, all of whom are of Albanian descent, probably arose from their resentment over Serbian and federal interference in Kosovo. According to the Yugoslav party daily, 12 members of the party Presidium in Kosovo will be removed and the 19-man body reduced to 13. [redacted]

Meanwhile, the trials of the Albanians arrested following the riots have begun. Twenty-seven persons have been sentenced to an average of six to eight years imprisonment and approximately 150 more, including the alleged ringleaders, are awaiting trial. [redacted]